

CLAIMS

1. A method for suppressing proliferation of abnormal prion proteins, comprising the step of systemically, orally,
5 intracerebrally or intraspinally administering an essential amino acid having a branched side chain.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the essential amino acid having a branched side chain is selected
10 from the group consisting of leucine, isoleucine, valine, and a mixture thereof.

3. A method for suppressing proliferation of abnormal prion proteins, comprising the step of systemically, orally,
15 intracerebrally or intraspinally administering leucine.

4. A method for administering an essential amino acid having a branched side chain, comprising the step of systemically, orally, intracerebrally or intraspinally administration so as to
20 suppress proliferation of abnormal prion proteins.

5. The method according to claim 4, wherein the essential amino acid having a branched side chain is selected from the group consisting of leucine, isoleucine, valine, and a
25 mixture thereof.

6. A method for administering leucine, comprising the step of systemically, orally, intracerebrally or intraspinally administering leucine so as to suppress proliferation of abnormal
30 prion proteins.

7. A suppressive agent containing an essential amino acid having a branched side chain as an active ingredient for suppressing proliferation of abnormal prion proteins.

5 8. The suppressive agent according to claim 7, wherein the essential amino acid having a branched side chain is selected from the group consisting of leucine, isoleucine, valine, and a mixture thereof.

10 9. A suppressing agent for suppressing proliferation of abnormal prion proteins, the agent containing leucine as an active ingredient.

15 10. A use of an essential amino acid having a branched side chain for being administered systemically, orally, intracerebrally or intraspinally so as to suppress proliferation of abnormal prion proteins.

20 11. The use according to claim 10, wherein the essential amino acid having a branched side chain is selected from the group consisting of leucine, isoleucine, valine, and a mixture thereof.

25 12 A use of leucine for being administered systemically, orally, intracerebrally or intraspinally so as to suppress proliferation of abnormal prion proteins.

STATEMENT UNDER ARTICLE 19 (1)

The present claims 1 to 12 are retained unchanged.

The newly added claim 13 to 19 are divided from present claim 1 to specify the target disease. The target disease of the invention is stated at lines 15 to 21 on page 1 and lines 16 to 21 on page 3 of the description. This amendment, however, has no impact neither on the description nor drawings.

AMENDED CLAIMS

[received by the International Bureau on 06 June 2003 (06.06.03);
new claims 13 to 19 added;
remaining claims unchanged (2 pages)]

7. A suppressive agent containing an essential amino acid having a branched side chain as an active ingredient for suppressing proliferation of abnormal prion proteins.

5 8. The suppressive agent according to claim 7, wherein the essential amino acid having a branched side chain is selected from the group consisting of leucine, isoleucine, valine, and a mixture thereof.

10 9. A suppressing agent for suppressing proliferation of abnormal prion proteins, the agent containing leucine as an active ingredient.

15 10. A use of an essential amino acid having a branched side chain for being administered systemically, orally, intracerebrally or intraspinally so as to suppress proliferation of abnormal prion proteins.

20 11. The use according to claim 10, wherein the essential amino acid having a branched side chain is selected from the group consisting of leucine, isoleucine, valine, and a mixture thereof.

25 12. A use of leucine for being administered systemically, orally, intracerebrally or intraspinally so as to suppress proliferation of abnormal prion proteins.

(the claim is new)

30 13. A method for preventing prion diseases by suppressing proliferation of abnormal prion proteins which comprises the step of systemically, orally, intracerebrally or intraspinally administering an essential amino acid having a branched side chain as active ingredient.

AMENDED SHEET (ARTICLE 19)

(the claim is new)

14. The method according to claim 13, wherein the essential amino acid having a branched side chain is selected from the group consisting of leucine, isoleucine, valine, and a mixture thereof.

(the claim is new)

15. The method according to claim 13, wherein the essential amino acid having a branched side chain is leucine.

(the claim is new)

16. The method according to claim 13, wherein said prion diseases is scrapie.

(the claim is new)

17. The method according to claim 13, wherein said prion diseases is bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE).

(the claim is new)

18. The method according to claim 13, wherein said prion diseases is Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD).

(the claim is new)

19. The method according to claim 13, wherein said prion diseases is Gerstmann-Straussler-Scheinker syndrome.